

RANGE EXTENSION OF WOODWARDIA AREOLATA. While I was walking through a swampy area close to Spruce Hole Bog in Durham, N.H. on October 20, 1973, a fern frond came to my attention that from afar resembled an aberrant form of sensitive fern, *Onoclea sensibilis*. Upon further investigation, however, what was found turned out to be the fertile frond of *Woodwardia areolata* (L.) Moore, the netted-chain fern, so named for its long sori arranged in a row on each side of the secondary midrib.

The discovery of this fern is noteworthy when one realizes that only two stations for it have ever been recorded from New Hampshire, both in Rockingham County: Rye Beach by Walter Deane in 1886 (N.E.B.C.) and Seabrook by A. A. Eaton in 1896 (N.E.B.C.) In the seventy-seven years since those recorded findings, *Woodwardia areolata* has not been found in New Hampshire. In addition, this new station extends the range of this coastal plain species by approximately twenty miles.

Shaded by two bushes of *Vaccinium corymbosum*, a total of six plants have been located within an area of three feet. The plants are growing on rotting stump matter and are surrounded most of the year by a foot of water or more.

Such a find always leads one to speculate as to how this fern came to occur at this location, how long it has been there, and why it was not discovered long before this.

A voucher specimen of the *Woodwardia areolata* is deposited in the University of New Hampshire herbarium.

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